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EXTERNAL RESEARCH

Report



BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE
AND RESEARCH

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March 27, 1971 4323513

RELATIONS WITH THE USSR - A NEW LOOK?

Thomas Brimelow, Counselor of the British Embassy, discussed future US-USSR relations at a meeting of the Washington Forum, an informal group of Sino-Soviet specialists, on February 16, 1961. He began and ended with the question: could relations be expected to improve, or were Soviet statements to that effect merely a smoke screen for further communist expansion? The following is a summary of his views:

Recent statements by Khrushchev and Foreign Minister Gromyko have emphasized Soviet willingness to improve relations with the United States, and to "consolidate peace," particularly with the new Kennedy Administration. These statements conflict with Soviet doctrine as expounded from 1924 to 1960, which describes the world as divided between the opposing camps of capitalism and "socialism." Communist texts express confidence that world socialism, as the determinant of society, is winning the victory over "imperialism, colonialism, and capitalism."

According to recent Soviet pronouncements, the communists must take every step short of war to expose the US as the chief instrument of imperialism. The USSR will support all movements for national liberation, promote the class struggle and revolution, and resist capitalist intervention in places like Cuba and Laos, at all costs.

THIS REPORT IS NOT A STATEMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL POLICY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

09360-63

POST REPORT

DATE: November 30, 1960FROM: MUNICH
City
Germany
CountryReplaces Part I Dated November 6, 1959☒ Complete Revision ☐ Negative Report☒ Revises Paragraphs Marked by Asterisk

PART I

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General Description

Geography and Climate: Munich is located in Southern Bavaria about two hours drive from the Austrian border. It lies 1700 feet above sea level on a broad upland plain that rises gently toward the Alpine foothills twenty-five miles to the south. The surrounding countryside is mostly farmland, dotted by small villages and clumps of well-tended woodland. The climate is temperate although characterized by sudden changes in weather. Summers are short and usually rather cool; winters are moderately cold. Due to the proximity of mountains, rainfall is relatively heavy. The Foehn, a south wind similar to the Mediterranean Sirocco blows occasionally but appears to bother the natives more than foreigners.

Description of Post: Munich owes its initial growth to the establishment in the 12th century of a toll bridge across the Isar River on the traditional trade route to Italy. The city grew rapidly in the 18th and 19th centuries and today extends along both sides of the river. As the capital of an independent state throughout much of its history prior to 1870 and the seat until 1918 of Bavaria's royal family - the Wittelsbachs, Munich became an important center of art and music.

Munich lacks the medieval charm of many other German towns, having been largely rebuilt in the 19th century in a mixture of classical, renaissance, and neo-gothic styles. The atmosphere of the city, however, is found less in its physical appearance than in the character and traditions of its citizens as expressed in their religious and folk festivals in the beer halls and cabarets, and in their distinctive customs and manners.

The population of Munich is over one million and is steadily increasing. About one-fifth of Bavaria's population now consists of refugees and expellees from Eastern Europe and, as a result, Munich has become an important center of refugee activity. The overwhelming majority of Munich's citizens are Catholics, and the Church plays an important role in the life of the community.

American and other tourists come in fairly large numbers, especially during the summer months. In all the large business establishments as well as in many smaller shops English interpreters are available.

The city's leading economic activities, apart from the tourist trade, are light industry, brewing, fine mechanics, electrical equipment, optics, and porcelain. It is also the financial and commercial center of Bavaria.

The U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force personnel with their families comprise the largest group of Americans in the Munich area. Offices of Radio Free Europe and the American Committee for Liberation of Peoples from Bolshevism are both situated in Munich and are largely administered by American personnel. The remaining "foreign colony", which is somewhat dwarfed by the American community, includes members of the Consulates and Consulates General of twelve nations.

Nearby Places of Interest: Many interesting town and smaller cities are situated only a few hours by car or train from Munich. Well worth a visit are the medieval walled towns Dinkelsbuehl and Rothenburg; or cities such as Augsburg, Nuernberg, Ulm, and Passau with their old timbered houses, and gothic or baroque churches. World famous music festivals

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